



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 973

January Session, 2015



**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS
COMMITTEE CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION CERTIFICATE
PROGRAMS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subdivision (1) of section 10a-22a of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2015*):

4 (1) "Private occupational school" means a person, board, association,
5 partnership, corporation, limited liability company or other entity
6 offering instruction in any form or manner in any trade, industrial,
7 commercial, service, professional or other occupation for any
8 remuneration, consideration, reward or promise of whatever nature,
9 including, but not limited to, a hospital-based occupational school,
10 barber school or hairdressing school authorized pursuant to section
11 10a-22b, except "private occupational school" shall not include (A)
12 instruction offered under public supervision and control; (B)
13 instruction conducted by a firm or organization solely for the training
14 of its own employees or members; or (C) instruction offered by a
15 school authorized by the General Assembly to confer degrees;

16 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) As used in this section and
17 sections 3 to 5, inclusive, and section 7 of this act:

18 (1) "Institution of higher education" has the same meaning as
19 provided in section 10a-34 of the general statutes; and

20 (2) "Private occupational school" has the same meaning as provided
21 in section 10a-22a of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

22 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2015*) The Board of Regents for Higher
23 Education, in collaboration with the Office of Higher Education, shall
24 develop a written definition for all sub-baccalaureate certificates
25 awarded by an institution of higher education or private occupational
26 school in the state for the purpose of creating consistency among the
27 various sub-baccalaureate certificate programs. Not later than January
28 1, 2016, the president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education
29 shall submit, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
30 general statutes, a report containing such written definition to the joint
31 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
32 matters relating to higher education.

33 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) Not later than July 1, 2016,
34 and annually thereafter, each institution of higher education and
35 private occupational school in the state shall submit data for the prior
36 academic year to the Office of Higher Education regarding its sub-
37 baccalaureate certificate programs and the types of sub-baccalaureate
38 certificates it offers in a uniform format developed by said office. Such
39 data shall include, but need not be limited to, the following for each
40 sub-baccalaureate certificate program:

41 (1) Name and subject matter area of such program;

42 (2) Total enrollment in such program;

43 (3) Any entry-level requirements for enrollment in such program;

44 (4) Number and type of certificates awarded by such program;

45 (5) Whether academic credits are offered as part of such program;

46 (6) Whether there is a clear pathway from successful completion of
47 such program to enrollment in a related associate degree program;

48 (7) Whether such program leads to a credential recognized by the
49 industry for which such program prepares a student;

50 (8) Whether a student can combine the certificate awarded upon
51 successful completion of such program with any other certificate
52 awarded upon the successful completion of another sub-baccalaureate
53 certificate program in order to achieve a heightened level of
54 qualification for a particular trade or occupation; and

55 (9) Average length of time to complete such program.

56 (b) Not later than January 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, the
57 Office of Higher Education shall compile such data for purposes of
58 comparing the various types of sub-baccalaureate programs offered by
59 the institutions of higher education and private occupational schools
60 and determining (1) which programs are similar, (2) student interest in
61 each program and similar programs, and (3) the necessity of offering
62 each program. Not later than July 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, said
63 office shall make such data available on its Internet web site for the
64 purpose of enabling a student or prospective student to make an
65 informed decision about whether to enroll in a sub-baccalaureate
66 program and, if so, which program is the best fit for such student.

67 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) Each institution of higher
68 education and private occupational school shall develop for each sub-
69 baccalaureate certificate program it offers a one-page fact sheet that
70 provides basic information regarding such program to potential
71 applicants, including, but not limited to, tuition, fees, costs of books
72 and supplies, room and board, graduation and job placement rates and
73 average student debt.

74 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) The Board of Regents for
75 Higher Education shall establish a working group comprised of deans
76 of continuing education programs at the regional community-technical

77 colleges to review all of the noncredit sub-baccalaureate certificate
 78 programs offered by each regional community-technical college. Not
 79 later than July 1, 2016, the working group shall design a uniform
 80 naming convention for such programs to enable students to
 81 distinguish between noncredit certificate programs with similar yet
 82 varied requirements within the same field of study. Programs that
 83 vary shall be uniformly designated with indications of different,
 84 enhanced or more demanding requirements.

85 (b) Not later than July 1, 2016, and periodically thereafter as
 86 prescribed by the Board of Regents for Higher Education, the working
 87 group shall review the tuition of uniformly named sub-baccalaureate
 88 certificate programs leading to the same qualifications to determine if
 89 any cost variations in the tuition and fees for such program are
 90 reasonable.

91 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) Not later than January 1, 2017,
 92 the Office of Higher Education shall develop a program to annually
 93 audit not less than a sample of student data from all sub-baccalaureate
 94 certificate programs offered by the institutions of higher education and
 95 the private occupational schools. Said office shall not disclose any
 96 personally identifiable information of any student obtained as a result
 97 of performing the annual audit.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10a-22a(1)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	New section

PRI *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R* HED